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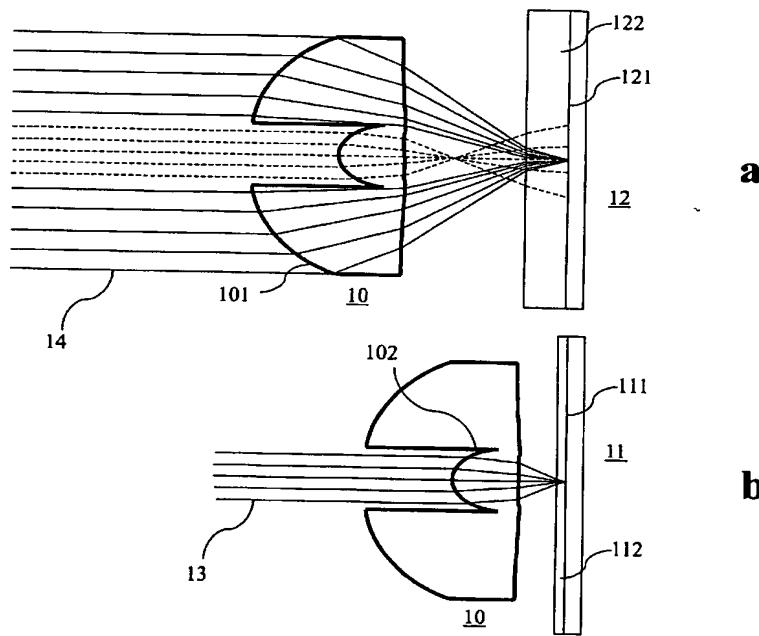
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HENDRIKS, Bernardus [NL/NL]; c/o SPID, 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR). TUKKER, Teunis [NL/NL]; c/o SPID, 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: OBJECTIVE LENS AND SCANNING DEVICE USING SUCH AN OBJECTIVE LENS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an objective lens and an optical device for scanning different information carriers having different cover layer thicknesses, with different numerical apertures. The objective lens (10, 20) comprises at least an annular part (101, 201) having a first numerical aperture and a central part (102, 203) having a second numerical aperture. The second numerical aperture is higher than the first numerical aperture.

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EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G11B7/135

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 197 960 A (FUJI PHOTO OPTICAL CO LTD) 17 April 2002 (2002-04-17)	1,4,5
Y	page 5, line 6 – page 11, line 5; figures -----	10
Y	US 6 115 347 A (ICHIMURA ISAO ET AL) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05) column 3, line 3 – column 9, line 11; figures -----	10
A	US 6 124 988 A (YANAGISAWA TAKUMA ET AL) 26 September 2000 (2000-09-26) column 2, line 58 – column 6, line 22; figures -----	1-10
A	EP 0 865 037 A (HITACHI LTD) 16 September 1998 (1998-09-16) page 3, line 53 – page 9, line 14; figures -----	1-10

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Geoghegan, C

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